UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1996/L.30
23 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1996
New York, 24 June-26 July 1996
Agenda item 3 (a)

COORDINATION OF POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: COORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ACTIVITIES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Walter Henze (Germany)

1. The Economic and Social Council takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication (E/1996/61) and of the recommendations it contains to assist in the formulation of coordinated United Nations support for national poverty eradication activities.

2. The international community reached a consensus and committed itself to the goal of poverty eradication at the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. The World Summit for Social Development adopted a global and comprehensive approach, outlined a broad range of measures aimed at eradicating poverty and called upon Governments to formulate integrated poverty eradication strategies, including time-bound goals and targets in their national context. While the United Nations system has an essential and complementary role to play in supporting Governments in their efforts to eradicate poverty, the primary responsibility for the assessment of poverty situations and for the formulation, strengthening and implementation of national poverty eradication plans and programmes lies with Governments and requires a strong political commitment at the national level. The implementation of the global commitments by the international community is also required since poverty is not only a national problem but also has origins in the international environment.

3. The problem of poverty exists in all countries, but with varying degrees of intensity.

4. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. No uniform solution can be found for global application. Rather, country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts, as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment, are crucial for a solution to this problem. Poverty is inseparably linked to a lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections. Without those resources, people are easily neglected by policy makers and have limited access to institutions, markets, employment, and public services. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation, and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all to resources, opportunities and public services, to undertake policies geared to more equitable distribution of wealth and income, to provide social protection for those who cannot support themselves, and to assist people confronted with unforeseen catastrophe, whether individual or collective, natural, social or technological.

5. The Economic and Social Council recognizes that the goal of poverty eradication represents a major challenge for the United Nations system, due to its importance as a global objective. The United Nations system has an important role to play in the overall effort for poverty eradication and in assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences and the statutory mandates of each organization into concrete actions and activities at all levels. Given the variety of the mandates and activities of organizations of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication, harmonization and coordination among those that intervene in the struggle to eradicate poverty are crucial. The participation of the United Nations system, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in the overall efforts of poverty eradication is aimed at assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences into concrete actions, especially at the country level.

I. COORDINATED UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION ACTIVITIES AT THE FIELD LEVEL

A. Definition of a poverty eradication strategy

6. There is no single best strategy for poverty eradication, and strategies differ from one country to another. It is the primary responsibility of the Government of each country to conduct an assessment of its own poverty situation and define its own poverty eradication strategy. The participation of civil society, including people living in poverty, the empowerment of local communities, and a genuine feeling of ownership by the Government and local communities are essential for poverty eradication strategies. The United Nations system has an essential and complementary role to play in supporting the Government in this area, providing assistance to the Government where requested and orienting its support activities according to the priorities and development objectives pursued by the Government through collaborative exercises, such as

the country strategy note (CSN), when the Government intends to apply this mechanism, or other existing coordination mechanisms where the CSN is not applied.

B. Resources for poverty eradication

7. There has been a decline in concessional resources for multilateral development institutions, which makes it more difficult for them to respond to the massive challenge of assisting countries in poverty eradication. In this context, particular concern was expressed at the incomplete fulfilment of commitments to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and it was hoped that adequate resources would be available for the eleventh replenishment. While it is the primary responsibility of the Government to mobilize resources for poverty eradication at the national level, the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, is recognized - as is the need to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication. The quality and effectiveness of the use of resources is as important as the quantity of resources for poverty eradication. Ways of securing predictable, continuous and assured funding should be explored, in particular in the context of the agreement reached by the General Assembly in resolution 50/227.

8. There is an urgent need to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) of the developed countries for official development assistance (ODA) as soon as possible. Mobilization of substantial new and additional resources from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, and from traditional and new sources would also be instrumental. New ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade, and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, including poverty eradication, should be explored. In the budgetary process, transparency and accountability should be ensured in the use of public resources, and priority should be given to providing and improving basic social services. The Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development called upon interested developed and developing country partners to agree on a mutual commitment to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes. The Council takes note of the work which interested countries have undertaken in developing and operationalizing the 20:20 concept, most recently at meetings which led to the adoption of the Oslo consensus.

C. Commitment to coordination of poverty eradication activities

9. In order to fulfil its supporting role, the United Nations system must actively pursue a coordinated and integrated approach - both at Headquarters and in the field, and between Headquarters and the field - to the implementation of the outcome of the recent conferences, which have all given priority to the goal of poverty eradication. In accordance with the mandates of the organizations of the United Nations system and the policies defined by the executive boards, the executive heads of all the organizations of the United Nations system should ensure that their country level representatives are fully committed to poverty eradication activities, to promoting joint action by the United Nations system and to participating in the resident coordinator system, including appropriate field-level committees and task forces, taking into account the complementarities and strengths of each organization.

D. Common country assessment

10. The organizations of the United Nations system should assist the Government upon request, through collective efforts made within the resident coordinator system, in preparing, under the leadership of the Government, an assessment of the poverty situation in the country as the basis for a country-specific poverty eradication strategy, taking account of the work carried out by the country itself in social development assessment according to the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. All the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The common country assessment suggested by the Joint Consultative Group on Policy should be extended to the United Nations system, and integrated into the process for the formulation of the CSN, where appropriate and in agreement with the Government. All joint efforts in information collection, research and analysis should take into account the statistical work on poverty measurement and other poverty indicators that has been carried out at the national level by countries themselves.

11. A common system-wide approach to support for monitoring by national Governments and assessing the achievement of goals and targets agreed to in international forums in the area of poverty should be developed under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort. Reporting from the United Nations system that would elaborate on issues that need to be addressed in relation to the implementation of paragraph 29 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which deals with monitoring and assessment by Governments, would be useful.

E. Increase of national capacity to develop indicators and assess data

12. The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the recommendations of the recent major conferences and summits, as appropriate, in particular the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The United Nations system should also consider and provide appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition. Upon the request of the Government, the United Nations system should provide assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacity to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis. The capacity of the United Nations system in this area should be fully utilized in formulating guidelines to develop definitions, indicators and instruments for impact assessment and for monitoring poverty programmes, including gender-sensitive indicators, in accordance with the outcomes of major recent conferences and summits with a view to assisting countries in those areas. ACC is requested to ensure coordination in this area and active steps should be taken to avoid duplication.

F. Gender analysis

13. The United Nations system should integrate the gender perspective into the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on poverty eradication and pay particular attention to the collection of gender-disaggregated data.

G. Country strategy note

14. The overall coordination of the poverty eradication activities of the United Nations system at the country level should take into account the CSN when Governments intend to apply this mechanism, which remains a voluntary initiative of recipient countries that should be formulated by interested recipient countries in accordance with their development plans and priorities, with the assistance of and in cooperation with the United Nations system.

15. In countries where the CSN is either not yet available or is not pursued, the United Nations system should, with the consent of the national Government, work through existing coordination mechanisms in support of national poverty eradication plans and programmes.

16. Poverty eradication activities are a high priority of the United Nations system and should be supported and coordinated through the resident coordinator system. Country coordination of the poverty eradication activities of the organizations of the United Nations system requires that those organizations actively participate in the resident coordinator system. The resident coordinator system should play its role in full collaboration and consultation with the Government, taking into account that the ultimate responsibility of

coordination in the country is that of the Government. The Government has also the primary responsibility in priority-setting.

17. In accordance with national plans and priorities, United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies represented at the field level should, through the resident coordinator system and under the leadership and facilitation of the resident coordinator, actively work towards expanding and improving coordination and promote United Nations joint activities related, as appropriate, to the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty eradication activities. In order to promote coordination and a better division of labour, special efforts must be made to ensure that resident coordinators, at the earliest possible stage of formulation, are informed of planned poverty programme activities and other relevant activities of the United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies.

H. Field-level committee

18. The field-level committee should review all major programmes and projects of the United Nations system, sectoral strategies and evaluation exercises in the area of poverty eradication in order to ensure their complementarity, provide guidance and advice on proposals for new initiatives, and facilitate the identification of programmes and projects for possible complementary financing and coordinated implementation, on the understanding that the results of the review carried out by the committee should be submitted to national Governments for final approval through the national focal points. The field-level committee should also promote the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Government, including other relevant stakeholders, for effective coordination of poverty eradication initiatives at the country level.

I. Thematic groups

19. The organizations of the United Nations system should promote the establishment of ad hoc thematic groups, with the joint participation of United Nations system officials and government authorities, in order to launch initiatives and debate on poverty eradication, and to promote appropriate measures to ensure that goals are actively pursued. Under the overall leadership of the Government, greater use could be made of thematic groups and other informal forums at the field level to enhance the dialogue between Governments and all relevant development partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors and civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

J. Programme approach

20. In order to achieve effective integration with national poverty eradication programmes defined along cross-sectoral lines, extended use should be made of the programme approach modality, under the leadership of the recipient Government. The programme approach should also be followed at the sectoral level, particularly in those sectors that have the greatest impact on people

living in poverty, who should be empowered by Governments to participate in the design and implementation of programmes.

K. Cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions

21. High priority should be devoted to strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, taking into account that such strengthening should preserve the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system on poverty eradication activities in line with General Assembly resolution 50/120, including their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism. If the Government concerned so desires, consideration could be given to achieving greater complementarity between the policy framework papers and country assistance strategies on the one hand, and the CSN, where it exists, on the other, so that coordination for the implementation of poverty eradication strategies could be enhanced.

22. A clear agreement should be reached with all relevant institutions to suitably use round-table meetings and consultative group meetings for the coordination of poverty eradication activities, to the extent possible, in a consistent development strategy. Cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank in the preparation, discussion and follow-up to round-table meetings and consultative groups should be strengthened, as appropriate.

L. Inter-agency coordination efforts

23. In the overall context of poverty eradication, the Council takes note of the work of ACC in promoting the implementation of outcomes of major global conferences in an integrated and thematic manner. It supports the approach to coordinated effort adopted in the creation of the ad hoc inter-agency task forces on the follow-up to conferences, which should take into account the mandates emanating from intergovernmental processes. The results of the work of the ad hoc task forces as well as the inter-agency committees, including the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women, should be reported through ACC to the Council in the context of the consideration of poverty eradication and other future theme(s) in the coordination segment and to its functional commissions within their respective mandates. These inter-agency efforts should also promote coherent support by the United Nations system on economic and social policy at the national level and produce clear guidelines for implementation by the resident coordinator system and other interested parties for the operationalization of programmes and platforms for action. Such inter-agency coordination efforts should maintain the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system as spelt out in paragraph 21 above.

24. Close and organic linkages should be drawn between inter-agency task forces and the rest of the ACC machinery as well as between relevant Secretariat departments responsible for policy design and the funds and programmes.

Duplication should be avoided in the work of the task forces, particularly on the development of indicators, by ensuring a coherent approach under the auspices of ACC. Other ongoing work should also be taken into account, particularly the work being done in developing countries. All task forces should apply a gender perspective to their own work.

25. The Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Social and Economic Development should focus on all aspects of the relevant chapter of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, including the national and international environments, as well as the results of other related recent United Nations conferences. The work of the Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, with the International Labour Organization as its lead agency, should contribute to poverty eradication, inter alia, by promoting more coordinated and effective programmes to generate productive employment. It should reflect the contributions of all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Development Fund for Women. The Council would welcome broader dissemination of the report of ACC, which should be discussed and considered by the Economic and Social Council.

26. The United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa is complementary to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and is also designed to facilitate its implementation and the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences as they relate to Africa. The Special Initiative might also become an impetus for the implementation of all elements of the New Agenda, including the mobilization of adequate resources, and should be considered in the context of the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda.

II. MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

27. In recent years, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. Women, moreover, are affected by poverty in a number of distinctive ways, and face particular obstacles, including discrimination, in seeking to overcome it. Failure to fully integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of poverty eradication programmes will prevent those programmes from achieving their goals.

28. Practical steps should be undertaken to integrate the gender perspective, first, into the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and, second, in all activities and documentation on poverty eradication, especially in connection with the International Year for the Eradication of

Poverty and the forthcoming first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. This should include, in accordance with the final outcomes of recent major conferences and summits:

(a) A conscious and cohesive effort by the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of both macroeconomic and micro-economic policies, and of all programmes aimed at poverty eradication;

(b) Regular exchange of information and experience, and collaboration, among United Nations organizations concerned with poverty eradication, as well as between these organizations and those concerned more specifically with women;

(c) Use of data disaggregated by sex in research, analysis and monitoring;

(d) Review of existing statistical indicators from a gender perspective and an elaboration of consistent and standardized indicators capable of measuring the extent to which the gender dimension is present in activities, taking into account the work carried out by different countries, in particular by developing countries, in statistical work on poverty measurement and other poverty indicators;

(e) Gender impact analysis of the design and implementation of policies and programmes;

(f) Integrating a gender perspective into the monitoring and evaluation of results, especially with respect to operational activities;

(g) Dissemination of information on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective on a regular basis and in a standardized form;

(h) To this end, greater emphasis should be placed on the need to provide appropriate training on gender issues to United Nations personnel, including personnel at the field level.

29. Efforts should be made to increase the participation of women in activities relating to the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of United Nations policies and programmes on poverty eradication. More specifically, the gender perspective should be fully integrated, and the participation of women should be ensured, in the United Nations activities related to the eradication of poverty in the context of the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and in all activities relevant to poverty eradication, including the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the forthcoming first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. It is also necessary to incorporate a coherent method of including both the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and specific programmes to achieve equality between men and women in the operational activities aimed at poverty eradication, and related staffing and decision-making spheres of the system.

30. Close collaboration should be established between focal points in all units of the Secretariat related to poverty and women/gender units in order to reduce

duplication and overlap in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective as well as to develop a coherent approach consistent with their mandates. Greater coherence is needed in the joint efforts for information collecting, research, analysis and operational activities.

31. The Council should ensure that its future monitoring of United Nations system activities in poverty eradication reflect a gender perspective. The system-wide medium-term plan for the Advancement of Women, 1996-2001, together with the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and other relevant bodies, should be linked to these efforts of mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and programmes in the area of poverty eradication and should serve as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts for the advancement of women, including those aimed at eradicating poverty among women.

32. The Council welcomes the creation of the recent ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women, which will address the cross-cutting nature of gender issues. Effective mechanisms should be put in place by the organizations of the United Nations system to enable the Inter-Agency Committee to fulfil its task of advising ACC on how to ensure effective coordination and cooperation of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. The Council should be informed regularly about the work of the Committee.

33. The United Nations resident coordinators, the field level committees and the thematic working groups, where they exist, must be fully sensitized, including through appropriate training on gender issues, to the need to integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of activities aimed at assisting national efforts to combat poverty.

III. A HARMONIZED AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF POVERTY ERADICATION

34. In view of its complex and multidimensional nature, the goal of poverty eradication requires consideration in many forums within the United Nations system. It must be ensured that intergovernmental consideration is harmonized in order to achieve coherent outcomes, and that it covers the different dimensions and aspects of poverty in a complementary way. A more structured and action-oriented intergovernmental dialogue on poverty eradication within the Council and its subsidiary machinery, taking into account other forums, in particular policy-making organs of specialized agencies, should contribute to ensuring a more coherent set of policy guidelines for the United Nations system and more focused support by the Council to the General Assembly.

35. Within the context of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the specific roles of the General Assembly, the Council and functional commissions in the context of poverty eradication must be clearly identified to avoid duplication of discussions. The General Assembly should establish the broad policy framework. The Council should provide overall guidance and coordination to the United Nations system, focus attention on major policy issues that require a prioritized and coordinated response from the United

Nations system as a whole, integrate the work of its functional commissions and support the General Assembly in its policy guidance role. Functional commissions have been assigned, inter alia, specific responsibilities for follow-up to and review of the implementation of commitments made at recent major United Nations conferences within their own fields of competence.

A. Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing an integrated approach to poverty eradication

36. The Economic and Social Council is the central intergovernmental mechanism for coordinating integrated and comprehensive activities of the United Nations system in the field of poverty eradication. It will focus on the provision of comprehensive guidelines and coordination of the work of other organs to ensure a multidimensional, integrated and gender-sensitive approach to poverty eradication in accordance with, inter alia, the provisions of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and General Assembly resolution 50/227. In its consideration of cross-cutting elements common to major international conferences, and its overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference, the Council will give due priority to poverty eradication.

37. The Council will carry out an overall review of the theme of poverty eradication at its substantive session of ..., as a contribution to the review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In accordance with their programmes of work as approved by the Council, the relevant functional commissions should, in 1999-2000, prepare technical and focused inputs for the Council's overall review of poverty eradication.

38. The report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the results of the work of the ad hoc inter-agency task forces and inter-agency standing committees established by ACC for follow-up to conferences as they pertain to poverty eradication should be reviewed during the coordination segment when the Council considers poverty eradication. Other aspects of the ACC report should be considered during the general segment under the appropriate agenda items.

B. Functional commissions

39. In accordance with the agreed conclusions adopted at its substantive session of 1995, the Council shall ensure, on a continuing basis, coordination of the items of the multi-year programmes of the functional commissions related to poverty eradication and a better division of labour among them, based on their respective mandates.

40. As the functional commission with the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development, the Commission for Social Development, in support of the Council's function, should provide an integrated approach to national and international poverty eradication strategies and other areas covered by its mandate. Ongoing efforts to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development and to

improve its functioning in the context of the follow-up to the Summit, should be pursued and deepened, based, inter alia, on the recommendations and decisions adopted at the 1996 special session of the Commission. Adequate Secretariat support to the Commission should be ensured. Task managers should be identified for specific issues, so as to involve more closely the concerned specialized agencies and other parts of the United Nations system in supporting the work of the Commission.

41. The other relevant functional commissions have valuable contributions to make in addressing poverty eradication from their particular perspective and within their own mandate, while avoiding unnecessary duplication and overlap, and should focus on the linkages between their own field of competence and poverty eradication. This should be done as set out below.

42. The Commission on Sustainable Development should focus its work related to poverty in accordance with paragraph 6 of its decision 4/2 on combating poverty. The Commission on Sustainable Development should rely on inputs from the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development, as necessary, in order to enhance the implementation of those recommendations of chapter 3 (Combating poverty) of Agenda 21 that correspond to core areas of the World Summit Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development, respectively.

43. The Commission on the Status of Women has a special role to play in intergovernmental consideration of poverty eradication. While assisting the Council in reviewing and appraising progress in and promoting the inclusion of a gender perspective in policies and programmes of other functional commissions and system-wide, the Commission on the Status of Women, in its discussion on poverty, should continue to focus on women in poverty. The Commission on the Status of Women should play a catalytic role in reviewing and promoting the follow-up to the recommendations on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of poverty eradication of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other conferences. The Commission for Social Development should draw upon the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the evaluation of measures adopted by the Summit that relate to various aspects of gender equality.

44. The Commission on the Status of Women should determine, in consultation with other functional commissions, the best way to cooperate in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in their respective areas in general, and under poverty in particular. Relevant functional commissions should consider having on their agendas a review of the gender implications of policies falling under their competence.

45. The Commission on Human Rights, in the context of its work on poverty, should focus on the relationship between all human rights, including the right to development, and poverty, notably extreme poverty. In this context, it should make the maximum use of relevant work of other commissions and the Council. The Commission on Human Rights could consider providing an input to

the Commission on the Status of Women on ensuring women's equal enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to economic resources.

46. The Commission on Population and Development should address issues relating to poverty and population in the context of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

47. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development should continue to take into account the relationship between science and technology and poverty eradication and the contribution of advances in science and technology to poverty eradication and meeting the basic needs of all, subject to any changes that may be required, taking into account the review of the role and working methods of the Commission and its relationship with other bodies in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

48. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should provide appropriate inputs into the consideration of poverty-related issues by the Commission for Social Development, notably in its discussion of social integration and participation of all people, scheduled for 1998, and to other relevant functional commissions as appropriate.

49. The mechanisms established by ACC for the follow-up to conferences should support the work of functional commissions on poverty-related issues within their mandates and priorities, and the executive boards of funds and programmes should become more closely involved with their work. The work of the newly created Inter-Agency Committee on Women should complement and reinforce the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

50. Other commissions, committees and expert bodies of the Council should also contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the functional commissions with responsibilities for specific aspects of poverty eradication.

C. Consideration of common themes by the functional commissions or by the Council

51. The Economic and Social Council should discuss issues of the enabling national and international environment in the economic, social and related fields, including the mobilization of resources. The functional commissions should focus their consideration of those issues, as they relate to poverty eradication, on aspects that fall within their respective areas of competence. The Council will contribute to the preparation of the General Assembly review on the theme of poverty eradication, with inputs from all functional commissions in their respective areas, as part of its consideration of the enabling environment.

1. Integrated national strategies for poverty eradication

52. The elaboration of integrated strategies against poverty falls primarily within the responsibility and competence of Member States. The Commission for Social Development should foster an exchange of national experiences in the

formulation and implementation of poverty eradication strategies, plans, programmes and priorities, and take these into account in formulating its views. The Commission for Social Development should present its views on this matter when it reports to the Council on its review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

2. Basic social services as a crucial instrument for poverty eradication

53. The Commission for Social Development will examine the theme of "Social services for all" in 1999 in the context of its multi-year programme of work. This examination could also serve as an input into the overall review of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development will not need to conduct a separate discussion of education but should continue to examine education and awareness programmes targeted at population objectives.

54. Other functional commissions should contribute, as appropriate, to the examination of this theme by the Commission for Social Development through the provision of focused inputs. For example, the Commission for Social Development could draw upon the work of the Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of human rights. Similarly, it could draw upon the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning environmental health and safe drinking water and sanitation. Also, the Commission for Social Development could draw upon the work of the Commission on Population and Development on access to health care, including reproductive health care, and on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme of education.

55. The Commission for Social Development, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organizations, should assist the Council in reviewing the achievement of goals and targets set by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development in the areas of child and maternal health, basic education, and other areas of basic social services, in the effort to combat poverty, drawing upon the work undertaken by other bodies in charge of promoting and reviewing the implementation of these targets for other conference follow-up. Promoting and reviewing the implementation of the targets in the area of shelter and urban infrastructure could be left to the Commission on Human Settlements and those in the area of water and sanitation to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

3. Productive employment

56. The Commission for Social Development will examine productive employment and sustainable livelihoods in 1997. When dealing with the sub-theme of "Improving access to productive resources and infrastructure", the Commission should focus on measures that increase such access by people living in poverty. The Commission for Social Development should build on the work to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1997 on "Women and the economy" and

by the Commission on Sustainable Development on environmentally related aspects of employment. The work of the ACC Inter-Agency Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods should be fully taken into account in the preparations for the discussions in the Commission for Social Development.

4. Vulnerability, social integration and participation of people living in poverty

57. The Commission for Social Development has an important role concerning the issue of measures for vulnerable groups and social protection, as well as participation. It is to carry out an overall review of the theme of promoting social integration and participation of all people in 1998. The Commission for Social Development, in preparing for and addressing this theme, should take into account the relevant parts of the results of other major conferences and follow-up work being undertaken by the relevant commissions as well as by relevant inter-agency bodies. All relevant functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the Commission on Human Settlements, should provide inputs to this examination.

5. Statistics

58. The Council encourages the Statistical Commission to pursue its work on the statistical implications of the World Summit for Social Development and other recent major international conferences. Close links should be developed between its work and the ongoing elaboration of sustainable development indicators, including the work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery. The Statistical Commission is invited to share the results of the work of the Expert Group on poverty statistics and the report on the seminar to be held on poverty statistics as inputs for the Commission for Social Development and the Council for the review of recommendations of the chapter II (Eradication of poverty) of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The Statistical Commission should also provide an input to the Commission on the Status of Women for its review of the implementation of the recommendations on poverty measurement made by the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Statistical Commission should also provide inputs to other relevant functional commissions on the recommendations on poverty measurement made by various United Nations conferences and summits. ACC should fully support this work. Duplication should be avoided in the work of commissions related to the issue of poverty measurement. In the work related to developing indicators of social development, the work carried out by different countries, in particular developing countries, should be taken into account. The capacity of the United Nations system for providing policy and technical support and advice, upon request, to improve national capacities in this regard, should also be strengthened.